

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for facilitating the servicing of a telecommunications device having a chassis, electronic modules, a backplane, and pin connectors connecting the electronic modules to the backplane, comprising:

a catch basin module insertable into a slot in the telecommunications device in which at least one of the electronic modules would normally be disposed, said catch basin module including:

a rear wall having a window, said window being dimensioned to surround a group of pin connectors disposed on the backplane behind the slot into which said catch basin module is insertable; and

a bottom surface disposed below said window which abuts the backplane under the pin connectors when said catch basin module is inserted into the slot,

~~wherein when pins in the pin connectors are pushed out of the pin connectors from a rear side of the backplane, the pins fall onto said bottom surface of said catch basin module and do not fall into the chassis of the telecommunications device.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said bottom surface comprises a ledge projecting out from said catch basin module and having a channel and an upturned distal end, wherein when the pins fall onto said ledge, the pins are retained in said channel.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, said catch basin module further comprising a bottom panel having an upper surface, said bottom surface comprising an angled lip projecting out from said catch basin module, wherein when the pins fall from the pins connectors, the pins strike the angled lip, roll down said angled lip, and come to rest on said upper surface of said bottom panel.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, said rear wall being substantially vertical, wherein when said catch basin module is inserted into the slot, said rear wall blocks access to a portion of the backplane thereby protecting the backplane.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, said catch basin module further comprising:

a bottom panel and side walls disposed on opposite sides of said bottom panel,

wherein when said catch basin module is inserted into the slot, said side walls block access to electronic modules immediately adjacent to the slot, thereby protecting the adjacent electronic modules.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, said catch basin module further comprising an upper panel and a leaf spring disposed on said upper panel, wherein when said catch

basin module is inserted into the slot, said leaf spring biases against the chassis and stabilizes said catch basin module.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, said catch basin module further comprising a handle disposed on a front side of said catch basin module to assist in placing and removing said catch basin module into the slot.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said catch basin module is dimensioned to be as wide as at least one of the electronic modules.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said catch basin module is dimensioned to be as wide as three of the electronic modules.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for facilitating the servicing of a telecommunications device having electronic modules, a backplane, and pin connectors connecting the electronic modules to the backplane, comprising:

a catch basin module insertable into a slot in the telecommunications device in which at least one of the electronic modules would normally be disposed, said catch basin module ~~receiving and collecting pins to be pushed from a rear side of the backplane out of the backplane~~ having a window, said window being configured to receive the pin connectors.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

*Cancelled*